

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TUNIS 00085 051612Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /043 W

-----051614Z 080525 /43

P 051430Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5399

UNCLAS TUNIS 0085

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: BEXP, OCLR, TS

SUBJ: PROPOSED MARINE EXPOSITION TO NEAR EAST

REF: 76 STATE 302154

1. AFTER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AND REFLEXION ON NATURE OF TUNISIAN MARKET, EMBASSY RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDES THAT SUBJECT EXPOSITION WOULD HAVE LIMITED COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL IN TUNISIA. MARKET IS SMALL AND TIGHT IMPORT CONTROLS RAISE SERIOUS HANDICAP TO INTRODUCING NEW CONSUMER GOODS. RESTRICTED ENTRY TO PORT AREAS WOULD DISCOURAGE LARGE PERCENTAGE OF POTENTIALLY USEFUL VISITORS.

2. IN RESPECT TO PORT FACILITIES, OFFICIALS OF MAIN TUNIS PORT OF LA GOULETTE NOT INCLINED TO MAKE DOCKSIDE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR EXTENDED PERIOD (3-4 DAYS) FOR NON-CARGO VESSEL. ASSUME THE M.S. SOUTHWARD TOO LARGE TO ENTER INNER PORT OF TUNIS, WHICH IS REACHED VIA 6 METER CHANNEL. FUEL AND FRESH WATER ARE READILY AVAILABLE.

3. ALTHOUGH JAPANESE FLOATING FAIR IN EARLY 1960'S DREW WELL, EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT TUNIS WOULD NOT BE PRIME COMMERCIAL STOP FOR THE SOUTHWARD. HOWEVER, IF GROUP LOOKING FOR EXCELLENT TOURISM STOP WITH SOME COMMERCIAL INTEREST, TUNIS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. IF
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SHIPBOARD USDOC TRADE MISSION SHOULD CALL HERE LATE SEPTEMBER -EARLY OCTOBER, EMBASSY WOULD EXPECT TO PROVIDE FULLEST POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE INCLUDING PART-TIME SERVICES OF COMMERCIAL OFFICER.
MULCAHY

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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